



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84119
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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Diane Neilson, Geologist
Director, Utah Div. of Oil, Gas, and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106

Dear Diane,

The first meeting of the Bonneville Salt Flats Technical Review Committee was very informative and productive. I am pleased with the insight and expertise the committee brings to our efforts to preserve the salt flats. As discussed in the first meeting a follow-up meeting has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3, 1990.

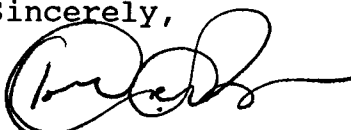
Enclosed for your review are the proposed charter along with study plan comments received from the other committee members. The comments received so far have been very thoughtful, provocative and useful. If you haven't commented yet, please send in or bring them to the next meeting.

Agenda items for the April 3 meeting are as follows:

1. Selection of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary/Recorder.
2. Charter approval.
3. Discussion of comments on the study plan.
4. Schedule time for a field trip to the salt flats and Reilly facilities.

Please contact Jordon Pope or Steve Brooks at (801) 977-4300 if you are unable to attend or have any questions.

Sincerely,


for Deane H. Zeller
District Manager

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS STUDY PLAN

PROBLEM: The problem is a loss of salt. The loss has been documented by numerous workers over a 30 year period. The loss involves a reduction in areal extent, thickness and volume. The purpose is to determine how and where the salt is lost. Acceptance of salt loss as a "given" is not intended to preclude additional measurements or assessments of salt volume.

Refer to the area as the Bonneville Salt Flats Area of Critical Environmental Concern, rather than Bonneville Speedway. The intent of the study is to preserve the salt flats, not necessarily racing on the salt flats.

Objectives: 1) Determine the principle and secondary causes of salt loss the BSF.

Comment on item 4) ... other man-induced and natural variations. List additional impacts or suspected causes of salt loss such as wind erosion, salt removed by vehicles traveling on the salt flats, brine removals etc. The objective is to quantify factors determined to have an impact.

Additional item: Investigate and recommend measures to abate salt from the BSF and/or to restore salt.

Task 1) Include collection of enough brine samples to assess the extent to which potash depletion may have occurred.

Task 2) Assess effects of placing dike along west side of ditches on federal lands north of I-80 as done by Reilly in 1989. This may have an impact on wind driven floods of brine due to elimination of direct surface flows into the brine collection ditches and may mitigate some of the salt loss.

Task 14) Add task which would recommend measures to mitigate salt loss. This is not intended to be an engineering analysis but rather a general assessment of mitigation which goes beyond Lines, 1979. Mitigation to be evaluated should include replacing the salt by using either salt from the abandoned evaporation ponds or effluent from the mill. If salt were to be placed into solution and pumped to the salt flats a substantial amount of water would be needed. Is the water available and chemistry compatible? If water could be obtained what significant limitations could influence the feasibility of placing the salt from the evaporation ponds in solution?

What methods could be employed to reduce salt loss? Quantify to extent possible. Do not investigate in detail economic or practical "dead ends". Concentrate on the most promising methods or actions to reduce salt loss.

